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## POLLUTION REPORT

### I. HEADING

**Date:** September 4, 2002

**Subject:** East St. Louis Lead Sites - Western Forge Works, St. Claire County, Illinois

**From:** Kevin Turner and Mike Harris, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinators, Region 5

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**POLREP:** #4/Final - Fund Lead Removal

### II. BACKGROUND

**Site No:** ~~BSU8~~ B5U7  
**CERCLIS No:** ILN000508198  
**NPL Status:** Non NPL  
**Start Date:** September 21, 2001  
**Completion Date:** N/A

**Task Order No:** 083  
**Response Authority:** CERCLA  
**State Notification:** August 14, 2001  
**Demobilization Date:** N/A  
**Status of Action Memorandum:** Signed August 31, 2001

### III. SITE DESCRIPTION

**A. Incident Category:** Former Industrial Facility

**B. Site Location:** 1300 Walnut Street  
East St Louis, IL 62201

Site Latitude: 38° 37'01"

Site Longitude: 90° 09'16"

#### 1. **Site description:**

Former Industrial Facility

## **B. Site Description**

### **1. Site location**

The Western Forge Works site is located in East St. Louis, St. Clair County, Illinois. The site is part of a continuum of lead cleanups throughout the City of East St. Louis. The site is located in a mixed residential and commercial area at the south side of St. Clair Avenue between 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets. An elementary school is located south of the site. The site is bordered by residences on three sides with a daycare center to the west and Interstate 64 to the north. According to the Region 5 Superfund Environmental Justice Analysis, the group of residents closest to the site are classified as 100% minority. Approximately 64% of the families residing in this area have an income of less than the established State low income level. The demographic conditions indicate that this cleanup is an environmental justice priority for the community around the site.

The cleanup of the former facility was handled by a nonprofit organization who conducted a demonstration project using bio-solids to bind up the leachable lead within the soils. This process reduces the amount of lead which is available to be absorbed into living organisms. The demonstration project was funded through a grant from the Department of Agriculture and is in conjunction with the East St. Louis Lead Collaborative Group. The low level lead contamination found in the surrounding neighborhoods are being addressed by the U.S. EPA as part of the same effort.

### **2. Description of threat**

The site is located in a mixed residential and commercial area. An elementary school is located south of the site, which is bordered by residences on all sides and a daycare center to the west. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the U.S. EPA documented the presence of lead in soil above health standards both on the former facility and in the surrounding neighborhood. The health concerns at this site are related to the uncontrolled access to the property, the proximity of the former facility to a grade school, a daycare center, evidence of trespassing on the property by local residents, and potentially exposing young children, pregnant women and elderly individuals to elevated levels of lead contamination. Lead was found widespread throughout the Site and within the surrounding neighborhood with most of the area above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Site specific residential action level of 400 parts per million (ppm).

### **3. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results**

On April 24, 2001, U.S. EPA On Scene Coordinator's (OSC) Kevin Turner, Mike Harris, Tom Cook, and Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team (START) members Keith Hughes from Project Resources Inc. (PR), Joe Parish, and Brian Schlieger from Tetra Tech (TT) conducted the site assessment. The Site was marked into loose grids, and potentially sensitive areas identified by the OSC for sampling were indicated using survey flags or marking paint. During the investigation, X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer readings ( with 95 percent upper and lower confidence limits) were taken at each locations (approximately every 30 feet). Numerous samples were marked and were submitted to a laboratory.

## **IV. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Situation**

**1. Response activities to date**

Work proceeded with the following:

- Superfund Technical Assessment Team (START) member continued to screen the surrounding with the X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer. Screening revealed some areas found with soil lead levels above the U.S. EPA residential action level of 400 mg/kg;
- Although the lead levels often exceed the site specific action level, the toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) analysis from the site assessment was well below the regulatory level of 5 mg/L. Therefore, excavated soils hauled from the site are being considered low level lead contaminated soil;
- The areas excavated are screened with an XRF and areas found above residential cleanup and were marked for excavation;

**2. Removal activities to date**

- Site project proceeded at the residential area surrounding the Western Forge Site;
- While screening, some residential areas were found to have lead levels above the EPA site specific residential action level. These elevated soils are then removed and disposed of off site;
- A total of 3,235.91 tons of low level lead contaminated soil was hauled from the site;
- A total of 3,385.80 tons of clean backfill has been placed on site and additional residential properties;
- 29 homes were screened and 9 needed to be excavated;
- 25 empty lots were screened and 19 needed to be excavated;
- On January 7, 2002, U.S. EPA OSC, START, and ERRS demobilized from site.

**3. Enforcement:**

- Enforcement/Cost recovery actions are pending.

**B. Planned Removal Activities**

- None.

**C. Next Steps**

- Cost recovery actions and complete an On-Scene Coordinator's Report.

D. Key Issues

- None.

V. COSTS

	Cost to date	Ceiling	% Remaining
ERRS	\$165,565	\$173,900	%.05
START	\$11,500	\$11,884	%.03
EPA		\$16,800	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Waste stream	Medium	Quantity	Transportation	Treatment	Disposal
Lead	Soil	3,235.91	Truck	N/A	Landfill